

Priority: Accountability
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Community Services
Program Contact: John Kauffman

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Elections conducts all local, city, county, state and federal elections for the citizens of Multnomah County. Local elections include boards of directors for schools and special districts as well as local measures. City elections include those for city offices as well as annexations and other city issues. County elections are for county officers and county measures. State elections include Oregon House and Senate races as well as state-wide offices and state measures. Federal elections include Congressional, US Senate and Presidential races.

Program Description

Conducting elections involves: registering voters; maintaining the voter data base; maintaining address and district data; checking signatures on city, local and state candidate/initiative petitions; accepting candidate/measure filings; producing voters' pamphlets; issuing and mailing ballots; establishing drop site locations; accepting and processing returned ballots; counting ballots; and releasing results. For major elections like Primary and General elections, we will employ as many as 250 temporary election workers. The program monitors contribution and expenditure filings of candidates and committees. The office also processes passport applications.

Multnomah County has been instrumental in helping to develop the Oregon Central Voter Registration system. We have been a pilot county since the beginning of the project. Key staff wrote scripts to test the system in development phases. We have been live on the statewide system since July 2005 and have conducted two small county elections using the new application. We continue to be involved in roll-out issues and training.

Program Justification

The Elections Division is an important component of our democratic process. All eligible citizens have the right to be registered to vote and to participate in elections. The perception of trust and confidence (one indicator of accountability) begins with open, fair and accurate elections. The program seeks to conduct elections in Multnomah County so that the focus of attention is on the candidates and issues, not on the election process.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Number of Votes Counted	453,411	520,000	203,916	520,000
Outcome	Percent of Survey Respondents that trust election results	0%	0%	0%	90%
Efficiency	Total Election Expense per Registered Voter	6	5	5	5
Output	Number of Passports Processed	2,946	3,000	3,000	3,050

Performance Measure - Description

In an attempt to measure voter perception of trust and confidence in our election process, we will devise a customer survey, assessing the best way to measure our public perception and present these results for next year's budget cycle. The actual amounts for "Total Election Expense per Registered Voter" are: \$6.39 (Previous Year Actual); \$5.34 (Current Year Purchased); \$5.42 (Current Year Estimate); and \$5.17 (Next Year Offer).

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5, Elections, describes the process for county initiative/referendum petitions in Multnomah County as well as how to fill vacancies in county elective offices. Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 165, addresses the state-wide uniformity in the conduct of elections by each county. Rules deal with issues such as County Voters' Pamphlets. Oregon Revised Statutes Chapters 246 through 260 provide the legal authority for all aspects of conducting elections in Oregon from voter registration through contribution and expenditure requirements for candidates and political campaigns.

There are also Federal mandates. The National Voter Registration Act, The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Help America Vote Act establishes election administration standards for States and local governments with the responsibility to administer Federal elections.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2006	2006	2007	2007
Personnel	\$1,367,672	\$0	\$1,547,098	\$0
Contracts	\$262,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$914,325	\$0	\$987,125	\$0
Internal Services	\$553,014	\$0	\$582,840	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$3,097,011	\$0	\$3,367,063	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$53,703	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,500
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$53,703	\$7,500
Total GF/non-GF:	\$3,097,011	\$0	\$3,420,766	\$7,500
Program Total:	\$3,097,011		\$3,428,266	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$877,525	\$0	\$1,102,525	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$83,000	\$0	\$83,000	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$72	\$7,500
Total Revenue:	\$960,525	\$0	\$1,185,597	\$7,500

Explanation of Revenues

Reimbursement of election expenses are paid by school and special districts which place candidates and/or issues on the local ballot. Special elections called by the State are fully reimbursed by the State (not including the Primary or General elections.) Some revenue is generated by candidate filing fees, voters' pamphlet fees and fees for processing passports. Elections anticipates reimbursement from the State of Oregon for the purchase of the new ballot counting equipment.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #90006, Elections